

December 16, 1950.

Miss Elise Cahn,
Carnegie Institution,
Cold Spring Harbor,
L.I., N.Y.
Dear Miss Cahn:

Announcements of assistantship awards are generally made before March 1, although a somewhat earlier notification may be possible.

I have asked the Graduate Office to be sure to send Dr. Demerec another form for WARF assistantships.

As to your acceptance here, if you can win a WARF or a USPHS fellowship award, I will accept that judgment to the extent of providing space for you to initiate your research work, even if it involves somehow squeezing you in. Beyond that, your application will be considered together with that of other candidates for our facilities. That is, if you win your own fellowship from WARF or PHS, you will be assured a place here; if you are unsuccessful there, that will not prejudice your consideration on the same basis as other prospective students. Therefore I will be glad to endorse your PHS application, insofar as a guarantee of working facilities is concerned.

The problem you mentioned sounds as if it has some interesting potentialities, if the technical difficulties can be overcome. I have been interested in something similar, namely phenotypic lag after segregation from heterozygotes. For example, S^S (streptomycin-resistance) is completely dominant to S^r in S^S/S^r diploids. However, I have not been able to detect any delay in the expression of S^r segregants, possibly owing to a delay in the bactericidal action of the streptomycin. This material is possibly more suitable to the problem than haploid prototroph recombinants.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of Genetics